

medical tests and require that they get permission before they conduct something like this. Anything that is mandatory would require that parent consent before it is conducted.

It's the same with psychological testing, if there is any psychological testing; and there has been across the United States. In Texas and California, they have had psychological testing without parental consent.

This legislation does not prevent students from voluntarily seeking psychological testing, psychiatric help, or medical help if they do so voluntarily. In some cases, there are conflicts between parents and students; and they do need to get some type of counseling. That is not excluded by this bill. I think that is very healthy for students to try to work through some of their problems so they can communicate better with their parents, and vice versa.

Other barriers exist, especially related to some testing, that have been very difficult for parents to accept, especially when they are not involved in the process.

In my home State of Kansas there was part of a standardized test that was given to junior high students was a reading comprehension test. The story that was selected was of a 7th grade girl who developed a relationship with an inanimate object, actually a statue of a crow. In this story this junior high girl begins to communicate with this statue, and the statue becomes her spiritual guide.

Many parents in Kansas found that having junior high kids subjected to spiritual guides, or the philosophy of a spiritual guide, was offensive. They decided that they would try to do something about it. Eventually, the test was changed. But, parents were excluded from finding out about such types of standardized tests, tests that would subject every child in Kansas, sooner or later, to that.

Mr. Speaker, I would just ask that my colleagues help support the Parental Freedom of Information Act and strengthen education.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. There being no further requests for morning hour debates, pursuant to clause 12, rule I, the House will stand in recess until 11 a.m.

Accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 56 minutes a.m.) the House stood in recess until 11 a.m.

□ 1100

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at 11 a.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Reverend James David Ford, D.D., offered the following prayer:

O gracious God, You have given us the great promises of life and we see Your glory and majesty of the heavens and the miracles of life and hope. On this day we pray that we will see Your blessings in the day-by-day events, the ordinary circumstances that touch our lives. May we realize that when we say a good word, we are Your people; when we listen to others and respect their traditions, we are doing Your work; when we give honor and dignity to those who disagree with us, we are truly acting our faith in our daily lives. As we seek to do Your will in the daily routines of life, so we bless You, our creator and our redeemer. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER. The question is on the Chair's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to clause 5, rule I, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Nevada (Mr. GIBBONS) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. GIBBONS led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Mr. Lundregan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate passed a bill of the following title, in which concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 1751. An act to extend the deadline for submission of a report by the Commission to Assess the Organization of the Federal Government to Combat the Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain 15 one-minutes on each side.

DEMOCRATS ARE NOT FOR TAX CUTS

(Mr. DELAY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, the Republican Party stands for lower taxes, and that is not news. The Democrat Party stands for higher taxes, and that is not news either. What is news is that we have yet another Democrat who has had the courage to say out loud what liberal Democrats believe with great conviction to the depths of their souls.

Just last week, one liberal Democrat, proud to call herself a liberal and a leader of the party of big government, said point blank, "The fact is that Democrats are not for tax cuts." Let us all listen to that again, because I find her candor quite refreshing: "The fact is that Democrats are not for tax cuts."

Now, I am sure that the White House spin machine could probably take that statement and show how we are all just cretins for thinking that these words mean what they say. But I am afraid most Americans understand exactly what these words mean without the benefit of the White House spin doctors.

How far the Democrat Party has come from the days of Andrew Jackson. Mr. Speaker, I tremble at the thought that the Democrat Party will practice what it preaches.

MAJORITY WHIP OWES AN APOLOGY

(Mr. LEWIS of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I was deeply saddened and chagrined to read in the paper the remarks of our colleague, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DELAY), the Majority Whip, regarding slavery and the President's remark on the subject.

According to my colleague, and I quote, "Here is a flower child with gray hair doing exactly what he did back in the '60s. He is apologizing for the actions of the U.S." While there is nothing wrong with apologizing, that is not what the President did.

What President Clinton did on his recent trip to Africa was express his regret over slavery. He said slavery was wrong, something we should all be able to agree on. At a time when the President and others are trying to nurture racial healing and reconciliation, it is unfortunate that there are those who would use the issue of race as a wedge to divide us.

Mr. Speaker, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DELAY) owes this House, the American people, and the President an explanation and an apology. He has said that the President cannot tell the truth about his mistakes and own up to them.

Mr. DELAY should admit his own error of judgment and apologize.